



## **NEWS**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Megan Rose (mrose@gcjpr.com)  
Gordon C. James Public Relations  
(602) 274-1988

### **Heroes luncheon features flying ace Bud Anderson** **Annual fundraiser to honor two WWII veterans and feature singer Ann Jillian**

PHOENIX (Nov. 10, 2005) – A World War II flying ace who flew alongside Chuck Yeager will be the featured speaker at the annual Veterans Medical Leadership Council's Heroes One and All luncheon on Thursday, November 10 at 11 a.m. at the Arizona Biltmore Resort & Spa., off 24<sup>th</sup> Street and Missouri.

Col. Clarence “Bud” Anderson, 81, had more than 16 victories as a P-51 fighter pilot stationed at Leiston Field in the U.K. Today Anderson is still flying a P-51 restored to match his old fighter, “The Old Crow,” at air shows throughout the country.

Honorees for distinguished military and community service are World War II veterans Frank Sackton and Helen Coyte. Ann Jillian will perform “The Star Spangled Banner” and “Wind Beneath My Wings”.

Individual tickets are \$150, \$65 for veterans. Tickets for the luncheon and a VIP reception are \$250 each, \$165 for veterans. For reservations, please call (602) 708-1123.

The luncheon is a primary fundraising event for the VMLC, a non-profit organization that helps veterans obtain health care needs that fall outside of federal funding guidelines. These include necessary services such as transportation, hospice support, social work services and recreational therapy. The VMLC also sponsors the annual VA Veterans Day Parade in Phoenix and supports the Carl T. Hayden VA Medical Center and Arizona State Veterans Home.

“Bud Anderson, Frank Sackton and Helen Coyte personify the incomparable service that veterans give to this country making them each heroes, one and all,” said VMLC president Denny McComb. “We are pleased to honor Frank and Helen and delighted that Bud will join us as guest speaker as we continue our work helping veterans in need.”

During WWII Bud Anderson served two combat tours escorting heavy bombers over Europe in the P-51 Mustang. From November 1943 through January 1945 he flew 116 combat missions (480 hrs) and destroyed 16 ¼ enemy aircraft in aerial combat and another one on the ground. Colonel Anderson was assigned as the Chief of Flight Test Operations at the Air Force Flight Test Center, Edwards Air Force Base California, where he flew various fighters and other types of aircraft. Altogether, he has flown more than 130 different types of aircraft and has logged 7,500 flying hours. Colonel Anderson’s awards include two Legion of Merits, five Distinguished Flying Crosses, the Bronze Star, 16 Air Medals and the French Croix de Guerre, as well as many campaign and service ribbons.

–MORE–

Ann Jillian is a three-time Emmy Nominee and Golden Globe award winning actress, singer and motivational speaker and is an accomplished performer in all areas of show business. She has starred in motion pictures, television, nightclubs and the Broadway stage. Jillian has frequently performed with Bob Hope, including USO shows with him in Beirut, Christmas week 1983, and in Saudi, Arabia and the Gulf during Christmas week and Desert Shield/Storm.

Lieutenant General Frank Sackton, 90, retired after serving in the infantry as secretary to Gen. Douglas McArthur, chief military planning office for the joint task force that detonated the first thermonuclear weapon, deputy director for National Security Affairs, and comptroller of the Army. During his 30-year military career, he earned a Silver Star for Gallantry in Combat, three Bronze Stars, Five Legions of Merit and a Distinguished Service Medal. While working for McArthur, Sackton was instrumental in the general's diplomatic efforts to establish a modern democracy in Japan. He is professor emeritus at ASU and still loves teaching.

Helen Coyte served in the Navy from 1943 through 1946. She was stationed at the Bureau of Ships, Navy Department, Washington, DC. As a yeoman she was on rotations and was assigned to a flight squadron, the Admiral's staff and others. Later, she was permanently assigned to the Engineer Corps of the Navy and was granted a secret clearance where she would garner necessary information to be shared on classified projects. Ms. Coyte is currently a member of the Cactus WAVES 114 (Women's All Volunteer Emergency Service) group in Mesa where she volunteers on support projects for the Carl T. Hayden VA Medical Center and the community. Coyte can still fit into her U.S. Navy uniform and wears it to many activities and events where she is representing veterans.

###

### **About the Veterans Medical Leadership Council**

The Veterans Medical Leadership Council is a non-profit organization that raises funds to help cover health care needs for veterans that fall outside of federal funding guidelines. These include transportation, hospice support, social work services and recreational therapy. The VMLC also sponsors the annual VA Veteran's Day Parade in Phoenix.